

THE SILENT DRAMA



Bill Hart in "The Testing Block" At The Circle.



Viola Dana and Jack Muhlall in "The Offshore Pirate" At The Hippodrome.



Sessue Hayakawa in "The First Born" At The Rivoli.



Thomas Meighan and Joie Bonney in "The Frontier of the Stars" At The Columbia.



Moment From "The Woman in His House" At The Liberty.



Betty Compson in "Prisoners of Love" At The Majestic.



Harry Carey in "If Only I Were Rich" At The Star.

TODAY'S FILM FEATURES.

Liberty—"The Woman in His House."
Columbia—Thomas Meighan, "The Frontier of the Stars."
Rivoli—Sessue Hayakawa, "The First Born."
Majestic—Betty Compson, "Prisoners of Love."
Peoples—James Oliver Curwood, "Kazan."
Star—Harry Carey, "If Only I Were Rich."
Circle—William S. Hart, "The Testing Block."
Hippodrome—Viola Dana, "The Offshore Pirate."
Globe—George Melford's "Behold My Wife!"

BY DON SKENE.

CENSORSHIP of pictures for Portland is temporarily in the hands of a newly created board made up of Mrs. Alexander Thompson, chairman; Ralph C. McAfee, executive secretary of the church federation; and Gus A. Metzger, owner and manager of the Rivoli theater. Mrs. E. T. Colwell remains as secretary.

Definite action and the appointment of a permanent censorship board is scheduled to take place at the meeting of the city council, March 15. The present board is giving careful consideration to the many problems of city censorship. Each member has prepared a list of 25 persons to act as motion-picture viewers, and various points in the regulation of theaters have been discussed.

Proposed amendments to the present city ordinance were presented recently to the council by representatives of the Federation of Churches and other civic organizations. These amendments suggested a board of five members, including at least two women. The ordinance provides for a board of three members. The size of the censorship board will be decided at the coming meeting.

In the meantime, censorship is in capable hands. Mrs. Thompson has had experience in the work, having served on the previous board. Mr. McAfee has the support of a number of important civic organizations, and Mr. Metzger is backed by the film men.

The report of the secretary for the past fiscal year showed that out of a total of 5596 reels of film viewed by censors, only 25 eliminations had been made. These cuts included anything from minor to total eliminations.

Belgium is planning something new in the regulation of moving-picture theaters. The government may create a national organization to buy pictures from the producers and lease films to the theater men. The plan is declared to be the result of the hostility of Belgian film interests to censorship and a tax on films of one sou a meter.

the exclusive run of certain productions under the new Jensen & Von Herberg policy. Various points in the relation of first-run houses and suburban theaters were brought up at the session.

Wallace Reid, popular screen star, paid Portland a very brief visit last Thursday. He arrived from California and spent, few hours in the city between trains. The film hero held a conference with C. S. Jensen and left for Seattle without giving the movie fans a chance to pay him homage.

A committee from the city administration, with representatives of the motion-picture theaters, made a tour of Portland film houses during the week to study methods of handling overflows in lobbies, for the purpose of making sure that all possible precautions were taken to prevent avoidable accidents in case of fire or panic.

A few slight changes in theater lobbies were suggested, and theater men promised co-operation with Fire Marshal Grenfell. Managers of the larger theaters declare that men are stationed in the lobbies during rush hours with the special duty of watching the crowds and preparing for any emergency. The only duty of ushers is to handle the seating of patrons.

H. M. Berman of New York, general manager of the Universal Film company, and William Kutz, who builds and buys theaters for Universal, are expected in Portland March 25. Ed Armstrong, western district manager, will come here from San Francisco this week and await their arrival.

This conference may result in an important theater deal in Portland. Universal is building or buying large theaters in many other cities, and Portland may be selected as the site for a Universal house. David Brill, local manager, returned last week from a trip to Seattle, where he conferred with officials of his organization on the theater and film situation in Portland. When these men together here some big news may be sprung on film row.

There are 19,956 moving-picture theaters in the United States and Canada, according to a census taken by publishers of a theatrical guide. Oregon is credited with 243 film houses. Ohio, with 1772 picture theaters, leads all the other states in this field, having a slight margin over New York and Pennsylvania. The complete list by states follows:

Alabama, 191; Arizona, 97; Arkansas, 203; California, 679; Colorado, 273; Connecticut, 239; Delaware, 25; District of Columbia, 60; Florida, 110; Georgia, 229; Idaho, 129; Illinois, 957; Indiana, 425; Iowa, 378; Kansas, 439; Kentucky, 252; Louisiana, 240; Maine, 277; Maryland, 192; Massachusetts, 370; Michigan, 404; Minnesota, 446; Mississippi, 153; Missouri, 344; Montana, 143; Nebraska, 498; Nevada, 20; New Hampshire, 123; New Jersey, 563; New Mexico, 31; New York, 1715; North Carolina, 107; North Dakota, 311; Ohio, 1772; Oklahoma, 349; Oregon, 243; Pennsylvania, 1749; Rhode Island, 49; South Carolina, 115; South Dakota, 242; Tennessee, 193; Texas, 326; Utah, 161; Vermont, 48; Virginia, 283; Washington, 324; West Virginia, 139; Wisconsin, 324; Wyoming, 67; Territory of Alaska, 28; Territory of Hawaii, 44; Canada, 679.

W. K. London, of Universal's New York office arrived here Thursday for a ten-day visit. Mr. London is making a tour of the company's exchanges in the United States to install a uniform booking system. When this work is completed, a clerk who

understands the booking system in one office can be transferred and be right at home at any Universal exchange.

Universal is planning an extensive expansion which will put film exchanges in Europe, South America and the Orient. Hundreds of new offices will be opened and a call has been issued for managers to take charge of them.

C. S. Jensen has a beautiful new Pierce-Arrow coupe which is said to represent an investment of \$10,000.

The big electric sign at Fourth and Washington streets which pointed the way to the Lyric theater for a long time has been purchased by G. T. Woodlaw, owner of the Circle theater.

Mr. Woodlaw is planning to reconstruct the sign on an elaborate scale, which will make it one of the best electrical displays in the city. A mammoth hand pointing south on Fourth street and the name of the theater will appear in white lights on a back-

ground of red and a moving band of green lights will surround this part of the sign. Above this portion a large circle in white will be built with green light streamers connecting with the base of the sign. When completed, the display will be one of the brightest on Washington street.

Mr. and Mrs. Henri Keates will celebrate their second wedding anniversary March 17. The popular organist was married in Denver and came to Portland about a year ago. Mr. and Mrs. Keates have just moved into a Spanish bungalow near the entrance to Laurelhurst park. A combination anniversary party and housewarming will be held in the new home March 17.

The presence of clocks in the front of theater audiences is distracting, according to Paul Noble of the Liberty. The timepieces in the Liberty have been moved to the rear of the house so that patrons can view the program without having their con-

science pricked by thoughts of being late to an appointment.

Manager Noble has installed some very attractive floral novelties in the rest room of the Liberty. The floral display arrived from Philadelphia last week and now forms a pleasing feature of the Liberty "hall of mirrors." Even the canaries are fooled by the new decorations.

W. H. Durham, owner of the Grand theater of Camas, Wash., and Clyde Seitz, of the Casino of The Dalles, kept Portland film assemblers busy during the week showing possible features for their growing little theaters.

Sid Schubach, local representative of the Stoll Film company, returned Wednesday from a trip through southern Washington, where he visited the exhibitors of the district. He reports interest in pictures high and predicts an increase in theater business during the next few months.

Movie fans brand as "fakes" many of the real spectacles which appear on the screen. This condition is reversed in "The Fire Cat," a production starring Edith Roberts, which Ralph Winsor has booked for an early showing at the Star theater.

Scenes in this picture show a big earthquake, and the producers admit that the spectacle is a carefully staged duplicate of a great volcanic eruption in South America. So realistic is the interest that viewers of the film are firm in their belief that the scenes were not "faked," but were actual happenings.

A bright financial future for successful scenario writers is predicted by Oliver Morosco, well-known theatrical magnate, who has gone into the film game on a large scale.

"It is obviously just that an author should be fully rewarded for his work," says Mr. Morosco. "There are writers today who have received \$25,000 and upward for original stories for the screen, besides sharing in the earnings of the pictures. Compared to what writers of scenarios received a few years ago, this is a very sizable sum. But the day of the \$100,000 story is coming—that is, if the story is worth it."

President F. H. Kiser, of the Kiser Studios, Inc., has purchased an Akolei moving picture camera at a cost of \$3000 to be used by his company in taking moving picture productions with Oregon's wonderful scenery as the setting for the plays. This is the same type of camera used by the United States army and navy during the war. It possesses the element of speed so essential for outdoor work. The instrument is light and can be dismounted and mounted in less time than a minute, and it can quickly be folded and packed and placed in a sack. The entire outfit weighs less than 45 pounds.

The camera was given a thorough tryout on a recent locating trip to Beacon rock, on the Columbia river highway. Scenes were taken of quickly moving objects and of prospective candidates of the east of the first production by the company. The flight of a bird or an airplane can be filmed as accurately as an object moving with less speed.

Mr. Kiser, George Natanson, director, and others of the company are planning another trip into the country to select locations for scenes for future productions and to try out candidates for the cast. A score or more applicants for positions in the cast will accompany the party.

Of special interest to music lovers is the overture from the opera "Tannhauser," by Wagner, which will be the feature of the concert today at

12:30 o'clock at the Rivoli theater.

Salvatore Santella, the conductor, has arranged for additional members of the orchestra as required. Two request numbers are also on the programme, which is as follows: Overture, "Tannhauser," (R. Wagner); "Vesper-Loze" (Gaston Berch); selection from "Flora Dora" (L. Stuart); "La Paloma," by Seixas (C. de Falla); waltz, "Love's Dream" (A. Chabouat); march of Bacchus from the ballet "Sylvia," by request (Leo Delibes).

For the afternoon and evening concert during the week there will be a selection, "Flora Dora," by L. Stuart.

Cecil Teague will play the following programme on the Majestic theater organ at the usual concert today: "All America" (Zamanki); "Bereuse," from "Jesuis" (Goudard); "Honey Dew," selection (Zimbalist), latest comic opera by eminent violinist; "Orpheus" (Offenbach).

The next Monday night recital in the series given by members of the Rivoli orchestra will be held March 21, according to an announcement by Manager Stille.

Henri A. Keates, Liberty organist, has again promised something original for his Sunday noon concert. He announced the following as the fifth and last number of the concert scheduled for 12:30 o'clock today: "A Few Tricks of the Trade—Also an Opportunity for Those Who Can Sing," arranged by Henri A. Keates.

Other numbers on today's programme will be: March, "Lorraine," by Louis Ganne; "Evening," by E. Martin; waltz brilliant, "Wild Roses," by M. Johnson, and a group of songs by Marie Chapman McDonald, violinist, and Nina Dressell, local contralto.

SPIRITUALIST FILM AT HEILIG

"What Women Will Do" Is Drama of New York Life.

"What Women Will Do," a stirring melodrama of New York life, is booked for showing on the screen of the Heilig theater for three days, starting Thursday, March 17, with continuous performances from 1 to 11 P. M.

The film features the portrayals of Anna Q. Nilsson, who enacts the role of a girl of the underworld, regenerated through the faith, trust of a mother grieving for her son and through the love of an honest, clean-cut man. Other prominent members of the cast are Allan Forrest, Earl Metcalfe, George Majeroni, Jane Jennings and Riley Hatch.

The story deals with a young woman who becomes involved in a malicious scheme, designed to nullify a wealthy old woman, whose grief over the suicide of her son while he was under the stigma of a charge of murder, has made her easy prey for the wiles of her enemies.

In working toward the climax, in which the girl and her companion are elevated through the regeneration af-

forded by the grief-stricken mother, the story introduces elements of great contemporary interest, including an intimate view of the workings of spiritualism.

Charles A. Logue wrote the story for production by Edward Jose. For his background he chose the under and upper worlds—the gayest of the cabaret, the excitement of the race course, the vulgarity of the "dives," the mystery of spiritualistic scenes and the refinement of high society—blending the whole into a series of dramatic situations and thrilling moments of intense action and interest.

SESSUE HAYAKAWA AT RIVOLI

Famous Japanese Starred in Picture "The First Born."

Sessue Hayakawa, famous Japanese film star, appears on the Rivoli screen in his latest production, "The First Born," a love drama of Chinese life. Hayakawa has appeared in many sympathetic roles on the screen and this new picture gives him a multitude of opportunities to show his particular talents.

"The First Born" has the happy combination of an excellent story, cast and settings. Although all of the scenes were "shot" in San Francisco and northern California, the work has been so well done as to transport the viewer to the far-off waters of the Hoang-Ho river, in China, in a most realistic manner. The story, a dramatic love theme, which jumps from China to San Francisco and back again, is at all times gripping.

Hayaka was seen as Chan Wang, a

boatman of the Hoang-Ho, who has won the love of Loey Tain, fairest flower of his native village and the daughter of a fisherman. Almost at the outset dark shadows creep into the picture when the lovers are separated by the girl's father, who, still filled with aversion, sells her to a slave agent from San Francisco. Of course the boatman follows to America, but before he finds his first love marries another girl and Chan Toy, "the first born," arrives. The love of the father for his son and the many tragic moments he is forced to endure make up a series of scenes in which Hayakawa excels.

MISS COMPSON AT MAJESTIC

Thrilling Screen Drama.

Betty Compson, whose meteoric rise to stardom was the result of her remarkable portrayal of the role of the girl in the George Loane Tucker production of "The Miracle Man," makes her initial stellar appearance in "Prisoners of Love," which is presented at the Majestic theater.

The picture was personally produced by Miss Compson, who is now at the head of her own company, and was directed by Arthur Rosson. The story is taken from one of the works of Catherine Henry and con-

(Continued on Page 6)

COME!
Big
Double Show

**TODAY and
TOMORROW**

WM. S. HART
In "THE TESTING BLOCK"
and Larry Semon Comedy "THE SPORTSMAN"

Admission 25c

THE CIRCLE THEATRE

To This Special Production

Independently Owned Independently Operated



WESLEY (FRECKLES) BARRY.

Wesley Barry, with his smile and freckles and happy personality, is winning his way into the hearts of movie followers all over the country. The young actor has created a number of roles which show real talent, and has won his way upward in the ranks of screen players until he stands today among the best-known figures of the silent drama, with a salary which makes the income tax collector smile.

Barry's best-known characters have been those of the office boy in "Go and Get It" and the newsboy in "Dinty." The above photograph shows the freckled youngster in his latest screen production, "The Fire Cat," in which he appears as a vest-pocket edition of Bill Hart. Young Barry was born in Los Angeles and has appeared in support of Mary Pickford in "Daddy Long Legs," Blanche Sweet, Anita Stewart and in Cecil B. DeMille's "Male and Female." He recently proved his versatility by scoring a hit in a Los Angeles stage production of Booth Tarkington's "Penrod."